investment, NRI deposits and also revaluation gains due to weakness exhibited by US dollar.

(c) Government have not fixed any target for optimum level of reserves.

(d) Does not arise.

Additional funding by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

679. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will pump in an additional $150 million in its Indian Operations, as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneshwar dated the 3rd November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof,; and

(c) whether the Bank has obtained the required permission from the competent authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to information received from Reserve Bank of India, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) 's Head Office will be providing additional capital funds to the extent of USD 150 million by March 31, 2003 to its Indian branches to meet the new Single and Group Borrower exposure requirements of RBI in relation to its capital funds.

(c) As per the extant RBI guidelines, foreign banks are free to raise capital by way of subordinated debt through Head Office borrowings.

Increase in income Tax surveys

680. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued fresh guidelines with regard in the increase in the number of income-tax surveys and in the number of returns to be taken up for scrutiny;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of tax collections during the first three quarters during the current financial year vis-a-vis the figures for the last two years during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMFfcNY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As regards Income Tax surveys, no instructions have been issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to increase the number of surveys. Regarding returns to be taken up for scrutiny, guidelines for selection of cases for scrutiny are issued by CBDT every year and this has been similarly done this year as well. The norms for selection of cases for scrutiny vary from year to year, resulting in smaller or larger number of cases selected under scrutiny depending upon the norms for selection adopted.

(c)The amount of tax collections during the first three quarters during the current financial year vis-a-vis the figures for the last two years during the same period are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	Amount
Upto Dec, 2002	53498.81
Upto Dec, 2001	44407.99
Upto Dec, 2000	44686.02

Commutation of Pension to Government Servants

681. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state-

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommended a new formula for the commutation of pension to the Government servants retiring on or after 1st January, 1996 and gave them a higher benefit;

(b) if so, the total increase in Government's liability as a result thereof;

(c) whether this formula was extended to pensioners who retired before 1st January, 1996 to whom other pensionary benefits were made applicable;